

Vehicle Safety Systems & Rescue Trucks with Rescue Squads

- Always wear proper PPE including safety glasses and safety gloves when operating in the Hot zone, this includes EMS providers
- All vehicles should be treated as having live, non – deployed airbags
- Front and side curtain bags can deploy twice
- Locate battery and D/C both terminals – do not allow them to re-contact to the battery or the wires to re-connect where cut
- Vehicle may have more than one battery
- Battery may not be accessible
- CPU holds power – length of time varies based upon vehicle...consider live throughout extrication
- Never cut through the CPU or push against it
- All yellow wires are for Airbags and Pre-tensioners
- All Orange wires are for high voltage systems – stay away / do NOT cut
- New Chevy Volt uses Blue to color their High Voltage System
- Make sure vehicle is in park, especially important with hybrid vehicles where you do not hear the engine running; engage parking brake
- Do not access the high voltage battery of Hybrid vehicles
- Be aware of vehicle that only need the key fob to start and move it away from the vehicle
- Locate airbag actuator prior to cutting through – cutting through may cause deployment
- Cut around actuator
- Do NOT position yourself in front of airbag
- Make access to the occupants by utilizing the purchase points created from the collision while avoiding the airbags and their components
- Remove doors, posts, seats, roof, etc with consideration of getting the deployment path of the airbag away from you and the victim
- Talk about positioning of apparatus, especially when ladder truck and rescue are responding together – leave room for each other
- First arriving unit/unit involved in extrication and stabilization has the lead, the other unit will support operations as deemed appropriately by the first arriving extrication piece – not a race and not to work individually
- Proper stabilization must never be sacrificed for speed or to expedite the cutting; nor should it be sacrificed just to put the extrication unit(s) in service
- Preparing the vehicle for extrication means proper stabilization, D/C the battery power, identify vehicle safety hazards, remove glass after covering the patient, cut seat belts if removing the B post or roof so they don't hold you up later